

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 September 1948

SUBJECT Developments Affecting the CDU
 and LDP in Saxony-Anhalt

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The strength of popular resentment against the SED in Saxony-Anhalt was shown in the elections of the works council of the Ministry of Labor and

dates were therefore not elected (Ella Reineke and Bovensiepen). Elections in other ministries were postponed until later, possibly as a result of this defeat in the Ministry of Labor.

2. The SMA and SED have been attempting to manipulate the bourgeois parties through the corruption of their members. This, according to source, has succeeded to a discouraging extent. Through food packages and other material favors, both high and low-ranking functionaries have been lured into the Russian camp. Turncoats either conceal their defection and remain in office or reveal it and are expelled or resign from the party but retain their official positions.

3. A special example of corruption of an LDP member by the Russians is the case of Landtag Deputy Herbert Fiering, whose duplicity was revealed through the vote on the law for the expropriation of cinemas. In the first vote, amendments to the law and a second return of committee were rejected by a 54 to 54 tie. On 4 May 1948, however, the SED forced a vote in the Landtag on the law itself and won a 54 to 53 victory because Fiering abstained from voting. His action had evidently been known to the SED in advance, for SED leaders were reported to have said that the bourgeois majority in the Landtag had already ceased to be a problem.

4. [REDACTED] LDP leaders had known for a year that Fiering was a spy for the SED and an SMA informant, but had taken no action except to dismiss him as business manager and prevent his re-election to the party executive. Fiering is reported to be a member of the SED (Werkschaftsführer in Magdeburg) and has been mentioned in police cases in which he was accused of being a spy for the LDP but remained in the [REDACTED] LEGIB

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5. A second LDP personality who apparently changed sides is Dr. Damerow, who was certainly aware of Fiering's defection at an early date. Damerow had become unacceptable to his own party as Minister of Agriculture and was obstructing the reorganization of the Saxony-Anhalt cabinet and its increase from seven to nine ministers, as determined upon at the beginning of May. After attacks by both the LDP and SED had failed to force him out, arrangements were finally made to send him to Thuringia as Minister of Justice and member of the Landtag. On 26 May 1948, however, Colonel Rodionov, political officer of SMA Saxony-Anhalt, stated categorically that Dr. Damerow would remain a minister by special permission from Karlshorst. Since that date,

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matters, including the choice of professors. When Dr. Eisfeldt, the Rector, and the deans failed to give the Ministry for Popular Education a decisive voice in the appointment of professors, the university heads were dismissed, and new deans and a rector were appointed by the Ministry. Under new directives, moreover, only sons of workers and peasants are to be admitted to the university, and ownership of twenty acres removes a man from the peasant class into that of the landholder.

7. The measures against the University of Halle were protested by Minister-President Hübener, but to no avail. The case was, however, one of the final that in the economic laws passed by DWK he saw the beginning of a new era with which he would be unable to cope, since they constituted the decisive blow against private economy. He planned after his retirement in Saxony-Anhalt to enter the University of Jena as a lecturer on administration. On 2 August, immediately after returning from his vacation, Hübener was ordered to report to General Shlyaktenko. The general himself received him (he suffered a slight stroke and since about mid-June had been delegating most tasks to his deputy, General Panchuk), and three men from Karlshorst were present. After a long discussion with the four Russians, Hübener agreed to postpone his retirement until a later date. It is expected that he will be used primarily for external affairs, especially for liaison with the west, but purely as a front.

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political prisoners released by Buchenwald and Mühlberg/Elbe camps have been returning home in better physical shape than heretofore. As soon as Marshal Sokolovsky's April order was issued, food in the camps improved greatly.

9. In spite of all counter-efforts, some anti-Russian activities apparently have been conducted in the zone. Evidence for this is contained in a directive of the Ministry of Interior of Saxony-Anhalt of 3 April 1948 to the councils of Stadtkreise and Landkreise on the subject of counterfeit orders. In several cases, telephoned orders to register all males for military service and to prepare for the evacuation of border areas had caused some disturbance before the

quiries were to be delayed until the arrival of written confirmation, except where the individual calling was personally known.

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Comment: Some of the material in this report is overt, but it has been included to fill out a general description of political conditions as they affect the GPU and CPB in Saxony-Anhalt today.

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